

## **Activity #4: Tips on Positive Interactions**

### **Section 7: Handling Conflict**

Karrie uses the word “friends” to describe the classroom community. She uses it to define her relationship to the children (“I missed all my friends over the weekend”) and to define the children’s relationships with each other (“Use kind words with your friends”). Because positive interactions with children are important to her as a teacher, Karrie:

1. Listens and responds with warmth and sensitivity.
2. Uses positive and self-esteem building language.
3. Shows respect for each child’s individuality.
4. Helps children learn self-control by supporting emerging emotional coping skills.
5. Offers many opportunities for children to make choices and decisions.
6. Gives oral directions after using an established and familiar sign to gain children’s attention and ensure they know what is being asked of them.
7. Encourages children to manage their own behavior by setting up a supportive environment (room arrangement, management charts, etc.).
8. Establishes classroom rules that are clear, simple, and developmentally appropriate.
9. Uses creative problem-solving in all parts of the curriculum.
10. Uses the problems that naturally occur throughout the day to model a constructive problem-solving approach.